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ately, as I happened to be absent in Berlin at the time. On April 9 I applied to the imperial health office at Berlin for permission to make the examination there, and I hereby express my sincere thanks to the deputy president, Dr. Röckl, and to Prof. H. Kossel, the head of the bacteriological department, for their kind reception in their laboratory.

On April 10 I received from the district officer in Dinkelsbühl a specimen of goat's hair with which the sick girl had worked.

1. Examination of the piece of flesh of the patient.

After the flesh had been cut up into several small parts, a small piece was inserted under the skin of a guinea pig, and two smaller pieces were used for experiments upon 2 white mice. The other pieces, after being laid upon gelatin and colored with Löffler's blue, were used for microscopic examination. An inspection revealed the presence of anthrax bacilli. The animals inoculated remained alive, although at the place of inoculation abscesses formed, in which were found large quantities of pus. On April 14 the diagnosis of anthrax was definitely made.

2. Examination of the specimens of goat's hair.

A handful of the goat hair from the factory in question was placed in bouillon. Subsequent experiments with cultures thus obtained demonstrated the presence of genuine anthrax bacilli. The result of these experiments was that it was decided to include goats' hair among the articles mentioned in section 1 of the law requiring the disinfection of certain materials imported for brush factories.

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

The spread of cancer in the German Empire.

[By government counsellor, Dr. Wutzdorff, of the imperial health office, Berlin.—
Synopsis translation.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 24, 1902.*

The frequency of individual causes of death has in the course of time shown remarkable variations. Apart from the epidemic outbreak of certain diseases like plague and smallpox in former centuries, which claimed unnumbered thousands and even millions of victims, it has been mainly the hygienic—and latterly also the therapeutics measures which brought about such a great change. During the middle ages leprosy occurred so frequently in Europe, that in order to battle with it there existed at the beginning of the thirteenth century in France alone 2,000, in the whole of Christendom about 19,000 leper hospitals. Owing to the strict isolation of the patients, this disease has gradually almost entirely disappeared in Germany. The history of scurvy, which on account of the large number of victims claimed by it in former times, frustrated so many enterprises of the navy and the merchant marine, is also extremely instructive. In the case of this disease, too, it was principally due to hygienic measures that it became possible to keep the same within bounds. The most perceptible—because most rapid—improvement, however, wrought by the application of hygienic measures, was in the case of smallpox, which, according to the estimate of Juncker, claimed annually in Europe at the end of the eighteenth

century, about 400,000 victims, and which after the introduction of vaccination, has become so rare in Germany, for example, that many physicians have never had occasion to treat a single smallpox patient.

To what extent therapeutic measures can influence the death rate, can be seen in the case of diphtheria during the last few years. In consequence of the serum treatment, we have been enabled to reduce the mortality from this disease by more than the half.

Tuberculosis has also shown a falling off during the past few years. Let us hope that the combined application of hygienic and therapeutic measures may result in further success in this connection.

Gratifying as the above-mentioned results undoubtedly are, we have, alas, another fell disease to combat—a sickness which leads, after terrible and often prolonged suffering, to death—namely, cancer, and which is steadily spreading in Germany. In some quarters it has been disputed that there has been any considerable increase in the number of cases of cancer during the past few years. In this connection the following table is instructive:

Increase of the population from December 1, 1875, to December 2, 1895, in Prussia, and the deaths from cancer from the year 1876 to the year 1895, according to age and sex.

	Population.		Deaths.			Population.		Deaths.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0 to 5 years.....	21.6	21.7	256.8	253.8	40 to 50 years.....	21.3	24.1	133.5	78.1
5 to 10 years.....	25.4	25.4	160.0	71.4	50 to 60 years.....	12.8	19.3	133.5	104.6
10 to 15 years.....	22.0	22.2	300.0	14.3	60 to 70 years.....	22.6	30.0	152.1	132.2
15 to 20 years.....	26.7	25.7	118.2	188.9	70 to 80 years.....	43.4	52.1	150.2	144.6
20 to 25 years.....	26.7	25.2	166.7	111.8	Over 80 years.....	38.0	49.7	169.4	142.0
25 to 30 years.....	26.9	24.1	31.4	88.6	Altogether	23.3	24.2	129.1	109.9
30 to 40 years.....	23.8	22.9	54.6	69.6					

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